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K. London — The Royal College of Physicians.
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The Necessity of the *Dispensary* asserted by the College Physicians.

Ad Deum Terminum, Ovid. Fastor. 2. *Tu populos urbesque & regna ingentia finis:*
Omnis erit sine te litigiosus Ager.

THE *Dispensary* has had the Fate of all the Attempts to *reform* the vilest and most pernicious *Practices*; to be esteem'd by all acquainted with the true *design*: to be neglected by those who wait, 'till the Fashion recommends it: to be exploded by the *malicious*, if any little Interest can be suspected beside their own.

It designs to extirpate the Corruptions, which have some years past seiz'd on the Art of *Physick*, and consequently to provide for the better Recovery of *Health*, and Preservation of *Life*.

Its End therefore is very important, and concerns all here from the Hospital to the Throne, tho' the Great ly most expos'd.

All our Neighbour Nations have prevented or remov'd these deadly evils, by appointing, That all *Medicines* shall be faithfully prepar'd, and sold at rates settled and not oppressive to the People, Their Apothecaries are oblig'd to attend their proper business in the Shop, and the Physicians are not therefore forc't to betray to them, or debauch their Art by the use of more Physick than is necessary; the excess being always injurious to the Patient.

The last *Reformation* was some years since at *Paris*. The *Kings Professor*, with those of the Faculty, who maintain'd the Reputation of their Art by the faithful Exercise of it, accus'd before the *Parliament* the *Apothecaries*, who were abetted by the Apostate Members, soliciting their Favour and Interest, by justifying their quacking in all Diseases, their exorbitant Bills, and the large quantities of Medicines in every Sickness, by which the *Patient* was either cheated or destroy'd. Their Zeal for the service of the Publick was applauded; their *Adversaries* were discover'd to have supply'd their want of *Merit* and *Integrity*, by the perpetual *Encomiums* of the confederate *Apothecaries* in all the Families. Their Treatment of the People, contrary to the Trust reposed in them, was thought to deserve the severity of the Laws, and the publick Justice.

The *College* of *Physicians* in *London* has, 'till lately, us'd no other *Method* to support the *Profession*, than by their *Statutes* to direct their Members in all affairs relating to themselves and their Patients. The *Apothecaries* growing very numerous, (50 or 100, with a few hir'd Servants, being sufficient for the City) having little business in the Shop, (buying their Medicines from the wholesale, and leaving the dispensing part to their Servants) attend and visit in all the Families, in sickness and in health; prevail on the People to admit their Empirical Practice in all the less difficult Cases, and 'till they see the danger in the more violent, on pretence to save the expence of a Physician: tho' he pays himself for his Care doubly and trebly, by setting very great Rates to all the little parcels of *Remedies*, which are very cheap.

That he may not be discover'd, he appoints those *Physicians* who readily magnify his Skill, support the much *Physick* by writing more, and justify the extravagant price, and consequently gratify him out of the *Patients Purse*, with a Profit two or three times more than his Fee.

If the *Physician* pretends to cure the common *Disorders* with two or three *Medicines*, or not to *hazard* the *Patient* in the more dangerous with many *Doses*, he shall be chang'd for another of a more *profitable complaisance*.

When *Interest* governs (and it has not lately lost its power) if the *Apothecary* recommends the *Physician* to you, a large number of the *Faculty* shall embrace this method, of coming into the business of the greatest Fame and Profit. It's easier to them than long *Study*, and frequently consulting their *Authors*, or observing carefully their *Patients* in the nicest Distempers. Their *Incapacity* or *Ignorance* shall be hid from the People. The less Care they use, shall make more room for the *Apothecaries* Attendance. Tho' they violate their Oath to maintain the Credit of their *Profession*, by asserting perfidiously the *Apothecary's* former Management; tho' they perjure themselves in asserting the *moderateness* of the *Bill*; and endanger the *sick*, by ordering ten times more *Physick* than they would use *themselves*, or direct for their *Friend*; they are, to make amends, cry'd up as the *great Men* and the *topping Physicians* in all the Houses. The great Fee sollicited for the favourite Doctor. He has the satisfaction in a little time, to observe his giddy Impertinence, or blustring Oratory, the admiration of the Town.

You may hence discern, why the *Party* confederate with the Pretenders to Practice before 'em, value themselves on *slighting* and *ridiculing* the *College* and its *Statutes*. 'Tis the *Word* and *Signal*, by which the *Quacks* and *Empiricks* of the Town discover them to be of their side, and are therefore always ready to support 'em.

You cannot prevent this modish treatment of your Health and Estate, but by consulting your disinterested *Friend* only in the choice of your *Physician*. But your *Friends* are all prejudic'd and prepossess'd by the common Vogue, from the *Interest* the *Apothecaries* claim in all the Families.

The People therefore cannot prevent their being *destroy'd* by too much *Physick*, and being abus'd in the prices, or the College assert the Merit and Integrity of those who endeavour to support it, but by the *Dispensary*. The Subscribers having no Interest in little or more Physick, can this way only demonstrate: that the common *Distempers* are curable by two or three Doses, the more *difficult* more often remov'd by the *cautious* using a few at the proper Seasons; and by their Success, that they are more just to Mankind, and at least much superior in Learning and Fidelity to the *Apostates*.

If therefore Mony, Health and Life are valuable, you will think our Care to preserve them deserves your regard.

The *Remedies* you use are not good, but in *few Shops*, whose *Number* in the Streets surprises all the *Foreigners*; because they are bought abroad, and it cannot be determin'd if all the *Drugs* of the *Composition* are the best. The *Physician* and the *People* are often deceiv'd in the Operation of *Purges*, *Opiates*, *Cordials*. The faithful *Apothecary* complains, that many who buy of the wholesale, have not the Art to compound themselves, or instruct their *Apprentices*. And in so many Shops, the *Medicines*, if once good, must corrupt and lose their Virtue, kept too long, and seldom renew'd.

The *Servants* young and heedless and unexperienc'd, commit fatal *Mistakes*, sending one Patient's Physick of differing Age, Constitution, Distemper, for anothers; mixing a Medicine of the same Colour, violent or corrosive, for one moderate or cordial; or erring in the weight and number of Drops of the most efficacious Ingredient.

The *Prices* are insupportable to *poor Families* and *Servants*; the first are often undone in one Sickness, and under the terror of future Illness. The Servants spend all they have gain'd in many years, or the Charity of the Master soon oppress, with the dread of being dismist, if not speedily recovered.

The more *wealthy* believing (from the hard Words in the Bill, and the difficulties of making an abatement of the odd Shillings) that they have their *Physick* at moderate Rates, being sensible of the large yearly *Payments*, are forc'd to bear the *Apothecary's* Advice, to avoid, as they think, a greater *Expence*: or to *quack* on their Families to excuse themselves from both.

The *Dispensary* is the only *Remedy* to these *Grievances*, the *People* being to be convinc'd only by *Fact* and their *Experience*. It prepares every *Medicine* of the choicest Drugs; it affords them at a low price, because all and the most valued Preparations, are almost as *cheap*, as the common supports of Life.

There is only one *Objection*, which the Subscribers are as willing to remove, as those who make it, That its *prejudicial* to the *Apothecary*.

He is by the *Charter* (of K. *James* I. at the request of his two Physicians) to select the *Drugs*, *compound* them, and *dispense* the Composition with the utmost *Fidelity*; The *Physicians Priviledge* expressly asserted. The *College* has no Contest with this *Apothecary*, the *Patient* may have his Physick as well there, as at the *Dispensary*.

But they who make the *Objection*, buy the purging Salt, *Elixir Salutis* and *Proprietatis*, the Sp. of Harts-horn, and the Tinctures, of the Chymist; the Manna, Rhubarb, burnt Harts-horn, and the Diet-drink Simples, of the Druggist; and do not reflect, that they invade the diligent *Apothecary*, whom the College would have apply'd to, for all the Physick prepar'd by himself, and *priz'd* at the usual rates of the *Shop*, when readily paid for.

But the *Dispensary* (even when the People shall buy of the *Shop*) will be the publick *Standard* of the *goodness* of every Composition, which, if suspected, may be *justify'd* by comparing one with the other.

It will be the *Standard* of the *Price*, if the Government shall (as in all other parts of *Europe*) appoint what Profit it pleases to the *Apothecary*.

The *Physicians Arcana*, or select Medicines, (possibly lately invented or observ'd) will be ready there on any extraordinary occasions.

And the *Poor* may out of that publick *Storehouse* be supply'd, from their own Abilities, with the best Medicines; or from the easie Charity of their *Neighbours*.

This just *Estimate* may be made of the Service it has already done to the City, That, by the 20000 Bills made up, it has bestow'd on the People to the value of 30 or 40 thousand Pounds, if you consider that one good Remedy at a low price, has excluded possibly *ten others* needless and superfluous at very exorbitant rates.

It has sav'd the Lives of many thousands, who would have been destroy'd by too much, or ill Physick, given by *Quacks* and *Empiricks*, or the Sect of *Physicians*, who distinguish themselves by the length of their Bills. It is therefore the most *munificent Donative*, and *greatest Benefaction* of the Age; and by its *Example* here, will in all Parts prevent the frauds of vast sums for useless or injurious *Physick*, and preserve the *Health* and *Lives* of *Millions* of the *People*.

Since therefore the *ignorant Poor* groan under their *Calamity*, and the *Rich* loudly complain of, or silently resent the excessive rates of *Physick*, and *condemn* in many particulars the present mode of *Practice*, who can refuse Relief, when offer'd to him? The *End* justifies

ſies the *Method* us'd to obtain it. If the *Apothecary* leavs his own, and falls into a *general Trade*, puts on the *Scarlet Gown* over his *Apron*; you will permit the *Faculty* to aſſert it ſelf, and put the Apron again on the *Servant*. If you will take no care, if the Medicines are good, you'l not ruffle the *Phyſician*, if he is ſolicitous that his *Preſcript* be well made, for his *Satisfaction* and his *Patients Cure*. If in very many Families the *Apothecary* acts alone in all the Caſes, may not the *Phyſician* with his *Diſpenſary* gratify as many on the other ſide? If the *Apothecary* pays himſelf as much, as he is inclin'd to, by the *Bill*, and gives his Advice for nothing: the *Phyſician* may gratify the People with *Phyſick* at a very eaſie expence. But the *Apothecary* out of his Shop, and never employ'd in the making the Compoſitions, but always abroad, adviſing at leaſt in the firſt attacks of all Diſtempers, is only a Pretender in the trade of *Pharmacy* and *Phyſick*. He was firſt brought into the Family, on the pretence of ſaving (as was imagin'd) a mighty Sum, eſpecially on *truſt* 'till *Chriſtmas*, to avoid the frequent Drains from *Vanity* and *Luxury*.

Obſerve the neceſſary Conſequences. The *Phyſick* is not made by him, bought very often at under-rates of the *wholeſale*, kept too long 'till uſeleſs, with the hazard of the Miſtakes by the young and heedleſs Servant. He muſt be with us to give the *Glyſters*. Shall he inject the Milk and Brown Sugar, while the *Medicine*, upon which your Life depends, is made at the *Wholeſale*, and diſpenſed by the *Boy*, whoſe Care you cannot confide in? The *Nurſe* or Friend take of the *bliſter'd Skin*; if any difficulty then or after, it employs the *Surgeon* at the ſame expence, the one preſent, and the other future. He adviſes by *Memory* and at gueſs from the *Phyſicians* Note, in Caſes probably very different, unacquainted with the Reaſons by which the Preſcript was directed. The *Officer* in *Court* may as well *plead* and give *Judgment*, or the *Sexton* enter into the *Pulpit*. The *Muſician* conſults his *Notes*, and rarely plays the *Tune* by *Memory*. He owns his *Inſufficiency*, when he deſires Advice at the end of a *Diſeaſe*. For it's more difficult at the *approach* to diſcern the *type* and *nature* of it, and he may adviſe more ſafely, when afterward the *Symptoms* are violent and more eaſily obſerv'd. You have ſeen his *Succeſs* in *Diſtempers*, which Nature will overcome by its own ſtrength, tho' you peſter it with 20 Medicines of any ſort, or any of the Methods. He never fails, becauſe the Doctor is call'd in to take that *Odium* on himſelf, and to hide *carefully every fatal Errour*, that your *next Friend* may take the ſame Direction and the Conſequences in his turn. 'Tis true, the Pretender does not know he deſtroy'd the Patient, it being very difficult to determin, when *we* or the *Diſeaſe* give the *Period* to Life, but goes on the ſame road of Doſing and Killing.

But we obſerve very often the *malignant* Spots and *Raſh* of the common putrid *Feavers*, made by the injudicious Proceſs, and the numbers of Boles and Draughts: which being omitted, abate, and in few days diſappear. The *Delirium* is often improv'd to a *Phrenſy*, and the *Convulſions* increas'd in proportion to the fiery and irritative *Cordials*. The *Viſits* and *Attendance* are gratify'd by 4 or 6 *Boles*, and the little *Draughts* of the divided *Julep*; even when the *Phyſician* gives his Advice to the *Poor*: a *Charity* peculiar to us, every Tradesman taking his Profit from every Cuſtomer. If in the 100*l.* Bill, as we aſſert, 80 or 90 are the gratuity for his *Converſation*, you may compare both Charges, and ſee the difference. The *Country Pretender* has his riding Fee, and contrives at the ſame time a Guinea or two from the *Boles* and *Powders*, and little draughts of *Juleps*.

The low Prices of all *Medicines* will juſtifie this *Eſtimate*. *Gold* and *Silver* and the precious Stones are indiſſolvable in the Stomach; *Bezoar* lately out of requeſt, and worth not a penny the grain; *Pearl* not more valuable than many cheap *Alkali's* often given in its ſtead; the Doſes of the moſt effectual Preparations, *Galenical* or *Chymical*, at the higheſt not worth more than 1, 2, or 3 *d.* the Doſe; *Manna* and *Rhubarb* are the deareſt, and us'd at moſt once in the day. In one day the moſt Diſeaſes or Conſtitutions require or can bear only the quantity of Remedies, which at the firſt *Coſt* are of 1, or 2, or 3 *s.* value. Many other Diſtempers are healed and remov'd in that Proportion. When then he is permitted to *gratify himſelf* for his *Trouble* by the long *Bill*, can you doubt he will ſhew his Diligence in raiſing the *Sum Total*? The *little Mob* you deſpiſe are thus us'd by the *Quacks* in *Moorfields*; they take no Fee (not to affright the People) but they get 10 or 20 *s.* in the *Bottle*, and in *Powders* they declare to be of *ineſtimable* value. But the uſual *Indiſpoſitions* are cur'd by few *Medicines*; in theſe you and your *Child* muſt take every 2 or 3 hours, for no other end but to anſwer punctually the *Attendance*. If Nature in the more ſevere Caſes ſhall be oppreſt by the *Diſeaſe*, the *Patient* is very often *kill'd* by much, and often given. A *Ship* in a *Storm* is overſet by too much Sail; and you know the conſequence of taking the *Glaſs* too often, or many days following, even in health. If in a *Feaver* you *heat* too faſt, or *ſweat* too largely, or promote the *Looſneſs*, or *diſturb* the Blood all the time of its Deſpumation, or pain him without cauſe, the *Diſeaſe* takes the advantage, and may hold it, if the next Attempt be not more fortunate. The *early Viſits* in the *Morning* (ſo very obliging at 6 or 7) are *pernicious* and *deſtructive* in the *reſtleſs Feavers*; the *ſick* can only ſleep about that time: That *Sleep* often prevents or cures *Deliriums*, *Convulſions*; and is of ſome importance 10 or 12 days in a *malignant* or otherwiſe *dangerous Feaver*.

You muſt therefore reſolve (if you will uſe your Reaſon) to diſtinguiſh the *Viſits* from the *Phyſick*. Being left to carve for himſelf, and take Mony out of the Bag untold, 'tis hard not to go on in that pleaſant Entertainment, 'till the *Patient* refuſes, or the *Relation* ſtops it, or one of the *Diſpenſary* deſires a little Conſcience may be ſhewn, in doing for others as we would do to our ſelves.

This *ticking* for *Attendance* and *Phyſick* makes them (as they freely own) Maſters of all the Families, to bring in and turn out whom they pleaſe.

Muſt not we then ſubmit as well as you, and write for his Benefit according to the Condition or Opinion of the Houſe? Shall not every Bill be long, and every thing *minc'd* into little *Parcels* and *Boles*, which cannot be ſwallow'd 'till mixt in the Spoon in a Liquor by the Finger? Shall not every *Caſe*, whether *eaſie* or *dangerous*, *violent* or *chronical*, be ply'd with ſomething to be taken, that we may gratify our *Patron* for this and the next Favour.

You have heard of the *Simoniacal Engagements*, and of half the Profit of an *Office* given to the *Procurer*, and may apply it here.

It is not to be doubted but he will bring in his beſt *Friend*, who will, beſide the preſent Advantage, complement him with as much Skill as himſelf pretends to. If he can be had, he ſhall be of the ſame *ſize* of *Judgment*, leaſt the Family ſhould make any *Diſtinction*, or apprehend a *Difference*. Hence the *ſtruggle* and *artifices* of writing moſt, and with the new Inventions (viſible in the daily Improvements of late years) who ſhall beſt ſerve the *Maſters* of the *People* and the *Profeſſion*.

You may judge by what *Arts* the *topping* and *great Men* came by their *Fame*, and by what *Craft* and *Induſtry* they hold it, if they are not wanting to themſelves, by not being to be ourdone by any other. Was there ever ſuch a *Medley* of ſome qualify'd one way, ſome another, in a *City* at the ſame time: who agree in nothing, but writing largely in all Caſes, and betraying the Profeſſion and Patient? When you ſee the *Comical Grimaces* of the two *oppoſite Intereſts* in your *Chamber*, you may gueſs how the *Antipathy* is to be ſoftned. The *Town* muſt *bluſh*, when they reflect how eaſily the *Bubble* is put upon them; when the very forms of *ſpeaking* on the *Stage*, with the ſame *Impudence* of aſſuming all Knowledge to themſelves, ſhall paſs in the *City* as on *Tower-hill*. The fam'd *Diſpenſary* Poem has *drawn* the *Pictures* of ſome of the *Worthies*, the reſt were beneath his notice or his *Pen*. The *People* will allow, that the *famous* in this would have been *infamous* in the laſt Age, if they reflect on the Characters of the *Phyſicians* then in eſteem. The *Phyſicians* of the College pretend to endeavour to *revive* their manner of *Practice*. They will expect their *Patients* at their *Houſes*, at the *known hours*, in the leſs dangerous and chronical Caſes: that they may attend the more difficult, (more than 5 or 6 Minutes) 'till they can diſcern the ſtrength of the Sick, and the force of the Diſeaſe, from the *Informations* of the *Friends*, or their own *Enquiries*. They will have time to viſit in the *Evening*, when the *Paroxyſm* of the reſtleſs Night begins, and *Nature* makes probably a new *effort*; it being impoſſible to appoint in the morning a *Medicine*, which may not be fatal at that time.

The *Viſits* will be ſuited to the violent or ſlower progreſs of the *Diſorder*, and the numberleſs *ſhort Viſits* not made on every occaſion.

They had *regard* to the various Circumſtances of the *People*, and pleas'd themſelves in their Care of their *poor Neighbours*, that they might add at leaſt to their Stock of *Experience*, and know the *Diſtemper*, when their *Friends* demanded their *Advice*. The *Phyſick* was good in all the Shops, faithfully diſpens'd and deliver'd to the Servant, and chearfully paid for. The *Phyſicians* and the *Patients* agreed on the limits by Articles eaſily ſettled. None of the modern *Diſguſts*, or the neceſſity of making the *Leech* uneaſie to drop of. Any more uſeful *Diſcovery* ought to be embrac'd. Till then we will imitate thoſe *Phyſicians* who have left the Art a *Reputation*, we ſhall otherwiſe vainly pretend to. The Deſign at leaſt is above the reach of *Lampoons*, and the little *Falſities* rais'd againſt it. They are now diſregarded, when almoſt every Converſation is a Libel on the Follies or Vices of all about us. And when the *Hero* ſhall be expos'd in the *Poem* for want of *Conduct*, and his *Privy Counſellors* before him explode the Truth of *Religion*, and outdo the Atheiſts in the drawing of the *Church* and the *Diſſenters*; all Verſes of this ſtrain will paſs away as thoſe have done. The *Prieſts* are *bloody*, *Lyars*, *Cowards*, *reverend Ruffians* and *Aſſaſſins*; their *Wrath* deform'd beyond the *Infernal Race*: The *others*, *monſtrous* and *cruel Tyrants*, who laſh with *Scorpions*, that could not bear to be mildly *whipt*; their Opinions, *howling Hereſie*, *griſly Schiſm*, *wild Strife*, *mad Enthuſiaſm*, &c. This writ when *long Sermons* were commended in one Room and *ſhort* in another. But the Poem will not be Reprinted, and its imputed leſs to Malice, than want of common Diſcretion.

POSTSCRIPT.

THE Author of *Bellum Medicinale* propoſes an odd Method, (after having expos'd all the Doctors and Apothecaries) of bringing Phyſick and Surgery together; uſing Chymical Medicines only. He is no Chymiſt, not knowing that *Aqua Regis* diſſolves Gold only from the Spirit of Salt in the *Sal Armoniac*. The Experiment may be too coſtly for him. In his Poſtſcript, one Sum is 870*l.* too much, and probably 40 or 50 concluded the Apothecaries Bill.

BRITISH MUSEUM

Sold by *Tho. Speed*, over againſt *Jonathan's* Coffee-houſe in *Exchange Ally* in *Cornhill*, 1702.

Price one Penny.